



**State of Washington  
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

711 Capitol Way Rm. 206, PO Box 40908 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0908  
(360) 753-1111 • FAX (360) 753-1112

**Toll Free 1-877-601-2828 • E-mail: [pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov](mailto:pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov) • Website: [www.pdcc.wa.gov](http://www.pdcc.wa.gov)**

December 4, 2019

Delivered electronically to [lisa.young@co.kittitas.wa.us](mailto:lisa.young@co.kittitas.wa.us)

Subject: Complaint filed by Fennelle Miller, PDC Case 59160

Dear Lisa Young:

Below is a copy of an electronic letter sent to Fennelle Miller concerning a complaint filed with the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC).

As noted in the letter to Fennelle Miller, the PDC has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1) and will not conduct a more formal investigation into these allegations or take further enforcement action in this matter.

However, PDC staff reminds you to review [PDC guidance](#) (PDC Interpretation 04-02) for local government agencies in election campaigns. You stated your intent was not to “assist or hinder the campaign of Kittitas County Candidate Cory Wright,” however, information posted on a campaign website is inherently campaign-related, and in the future, public officials should access campaign-related materials without using public resources.

If you have questions, contact Alice Fiman at (360) 586-4746, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at [pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov](mailto:pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

Endorsed by,

/s

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Alice Fiman  
Compliance Officer

/s

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Barbara Sandahl  
Deputy Director  
For Peter Lavallee  
Executive Director



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December 4, 2019

Delivered electronically to [fennelle@icloud.com](mailto:fennelle@icloud.com)

Subject: Complaint regarding Lisa Young, PDC Case 59160

Dear Fennelle Miller:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its review of the complaint you filed October 24, 2019. The complaint alleged Kittitas County Human Resources Director and Risk Manager Lisa Young may have violated RCW 42.17A.555 by using county facilities to support the campaign of Cory Wright for Kittitas County Commissioner.

PDC staff reviewed the allegations, the applicable statutes and rules, the e-mails you provided, and the response provided by Lisa Young, to determine whether the record supports a finding of one or more violations.

Based on staff's review, we found the following:

- Cory Wright was appointed to the Kittitas County Board of County Commissioners (Board), District 1 in July 2018, and filed a Candidate Registration with PDC on April 19, 2019 for election. Wright was elected to the Board on November 5, 2019.
- On October 11, 2019, Lisa Young sent an email to all Kittitas County department leadership and elected officials informing them of a Public Records Request regarding an August 2019 incident at a Kittitas County Board of County Commissioners executive session.
- The email included all information Young would be releasing to fulfill the Public Records Request, plus a response Wright had prepared when contacted by a local media outlet.
- In response to the complaint, Young stated "However, before Kittitas County fulfilled the Public Records Requests, Commissioner Wright publicly released the letters, as well as his written response. The release of the letters and Commissioner Wright's response was the subject of a relatively high amount of local news and social media commentary and speculation (with varying degrees of accuracy and truthfulness), as these letters had not been previously been made public or even distributed internally among county staff.

Kittitas County had considered this to be an internal matter, and had developed a plan to handle it internally. As you can imagine, county staff had questions about the release of these documents as well. For these reasons, attorneys in the Prosecutor's Office and I all felt it was important to immediately provide accurate information and copies of the relevant documents to the Kittitas County Department Heads and Elected Officials, so they would not be blindsided by questions from county staff or the public.”

- Young stated she received a copy of Wright’s response on her personal cell phone, however, she did not request it. Young then noted “I immediately contacted the legal team from the Prosecutor’s Office later that same morning (10/11/19), and the following was decided: I would notify our Department Heads and Elected Officials that these records had been disclosed to multiple requestors and that the (media outlet) Daily Record may soon publicly release the letters; that I would include a copy of all documents that had been released to the requestors, including the letter Commissioner Wright provided to the Daily Record; and I was to ask Commissioner Wright to send the letter to my county email so that I could include it as one part of the whole story (the incident did occur on county property in an official meeting) so our leadership team would be fully informed firsthand, before learning of the documents via the news/social media.”
- Young stated “I sent the October 11, 2019 email only to the Kittitas County Department Heads and Elected Officials, and did not forward or share it with other county employees or members of the public. As you can see in the body of the email, I asked the recipients to use discretion as to which county employees they shared the email with.”

Based on these findings staff has determined, in this instance, the alleged use of public facilities to support the campaign of Cory Wright for Kittitas County Commissioner does not amount to a violation warranting further investigation.

PDC staff is reminding Lisa Young to refrain from distributing materials posted on a campaign website as these are inherently campaign-related and, in the future, public officials should access campaign-related materials without using public resources.

Based on this information, the PDC finds that no further action is warranted and has dismissed this matter in accordance with RCW 42.17A.755(1).

If you have questions, contact Alice Fiman at 1-360-586-4746 or toll-free at 1-877-601- 2828, or by e-mail [pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov](mailto:pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

/s

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Alice Fiman  
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